

Exh. No. 187

Doc. No. 10,008

(Interrogation of ARAKI, Sadao (File No. 58). 8 March, pages 1, 2 and 3)

"Q. Did you agree with the Foreign Minister that Manchuria should be recognized as an independent state?

"A. Yes. The government at that time was in order, and since it would be best to recognize their independence while there was order in the government, I thought it best to grant them independence."

"A. Since the Manchurian Government proclaimed themselves independent, I thought it best that they be so. At the conference of the Big Three (Foreign, Navy, and Army Ministers) when discussing recognition of Manchuria as an independent state, I suggested that we exchange ambassadors, since Manchuria was an independent state."

"Q. After the Foreign, Navy, and War Ministers had agreed to recognize Manchuria, who proposed it to the Cabinet?

"A. The Foreign Minister."

"Q. Was it discussed in the meeting thoroughly?

"A. The discussion was as to when Manchuria should receive recognition now or later."

"Q. Who suggested that Manchuria should be recognized immediately as an independent state?

"A. The Kwantung headquarters put in a request that we recognize immediately."

"Q. That came to you?

"A. It must have, and also to the Foreign Minister."

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"Q. But you agreed with the Cabinet in its decision to recognize Manchuria as independent on September 15th?

"A. Yes.

"Q. Were all the Cabinet Members there?

"A. Yes."

At this meeting the Cabinet approved unanimously the contents of the treaty to be made between Japan and Manchuria. The treaty later negotiated did not vary in contents from that decided on in the Cabinet meeting in August 1932, giving to the Japanese certain superior rights.

(File 58, 8 March, pages 3-4-5)

"Q. Did all agree?

"A. Yes.

"Q. You set the date of September 15th as the date to formally recognize Manchuria?

"A. Yes. The date of agreement was in August.

"Q. Did the Cabinet at this meeting discuss the superiority of Japan's rights in Manchuria in commercial and economic ventures?

"A. At that time we must have discussed superiority rights of Japan in commercial and economic enterprises.

"Q. Did you at this Cabinet meeting discuss the terms or contents of the treaty to be made between Japan and Manchuria?

"A. We discussed the contents of the treaty. I do not remember the contents.

"Q. You did approve the contents of the treaty later to be made between Japan and Manchuria?

"A. Yes.

"Q. Yes.

"A. That was at this Cabinet meeting?

"A. Yes.

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"Q. Do you recall when the treaty was negotiated--was it very shortly thereafter?

"A. I think it might have been on Sept. 15th. I am not sure.

"Q. The terms or contents of the treaty between Japan and Manchuria were the same as agreed upon in the Cabinet in its meeting in August?

"A. Yes.

"Q. This was the same Cabinet meeting as that in which it was agreed to recognize the independence of Manchuria?

"A. Yes.

"Q. Do you recall who drew up the terms of the treaty?

"A. I think it was drawn up in the Foreign Office.

"Q. Did you have any suggestions?

"A. I do not remember whether I did or not. The treaty was drawn up after the Foreign, Navy, and War Ministers discussed it.

"Q. Was it drawn up in the Cabinet meeting?

"A. I do not remember. I think afterwards.

"Q. It was not drawn up in the Cabinet meeting in August--it was drawn up after the Cabinet had agreed on the contents of the treaty?

"A. Yes.

"Q. The treaty as drawn up, did not vary any from what was agreed upon at the Cabinet meeting in August?

"A. No.

"Q. And that was the same treaty that was negotiated later with Manchuria?

"A. Yes."

Japan recognized the independence of Manchuria. (File 58, 13 Feb. page 3)

"Q. General, were you responsible for the plan of the Independent State of Manchukuo?

"A. The Japanese Govt. recognized the independence of Manchuria. Therefore as a member of the Cabinet I was responsible for it. The date was 15 Sept. 1932.

(Ibid. 8 March, page 2)

"A. On March 1, Manchuria proclaimed themselves independent. On September 15 the Japanese Govt. recognized their independence."